

present, I would have voted YEA on roll call votes no. 267 and 268.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, during the votes held on June 19, 2018, I was inescapably detained and away handling important matters related to my District and the State of Alabama. If I had been present I would have voted YES on the SOUND Disposal and Packaging Act (H.R. 5687) and YES on Final Passage of the SENIOR Communities Protection Act (H.R. 5676).

153RD ANNIVERSARY OF
JUNETEENTH

HON. RANDY K. WEBER, SR.

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to recognize and celebrate Juneteenth.

153 years ago, General Gordon Granger and his Union troops rode into Galveston with an announcement that would change the course of history:

"The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are freed."

These powerful words took Galveston, Texas, and our nation by storm. The remem-

brance of Juneteenth is of great national significance. It is a day of reflection that inspires each of us. We commemorate the heritage and achievements of the African American community. The strength and spirit displayed at each passing anniversary of Juneteenth is remarkable.

We must never forget our nation's past. The evils and oppression of slavery have no place in society—not then and not now. We must remember the moments like Juneteenth, that changed our nation for the better. We must grow from here and strive to always celebrate life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—the unalienable rights that are the foundation of our nation.